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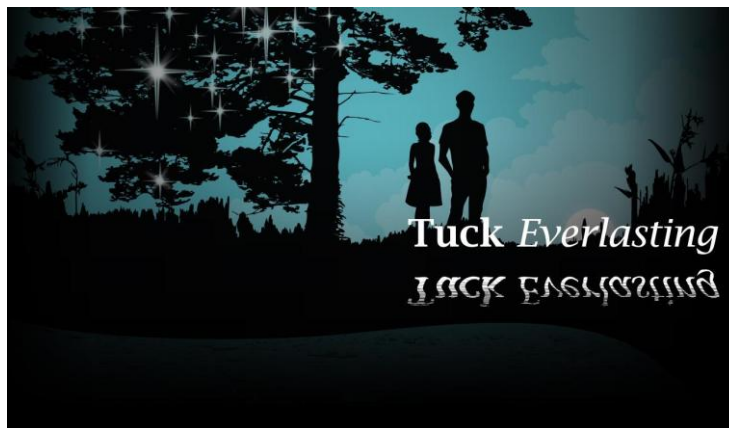
## *Tuck Everlasting*

Casey Nicholaw, Director/Choreographer  
Claudia Shear, Book – Chris Miller, Music – Nathan Tysen, Lyrics  
Based on the Novel by Natalie Babbitt

## Study Guide

Created by Alliance Theatre Staff, Residency Teaching Artists & 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, Margaret Onsager

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*Tuck Everlasting* is a world premiere musical adapted from the novel by Natalie Babbitt. The play can be seen on the Alliance Stage from January 21, 2015 to February 22, 2015.

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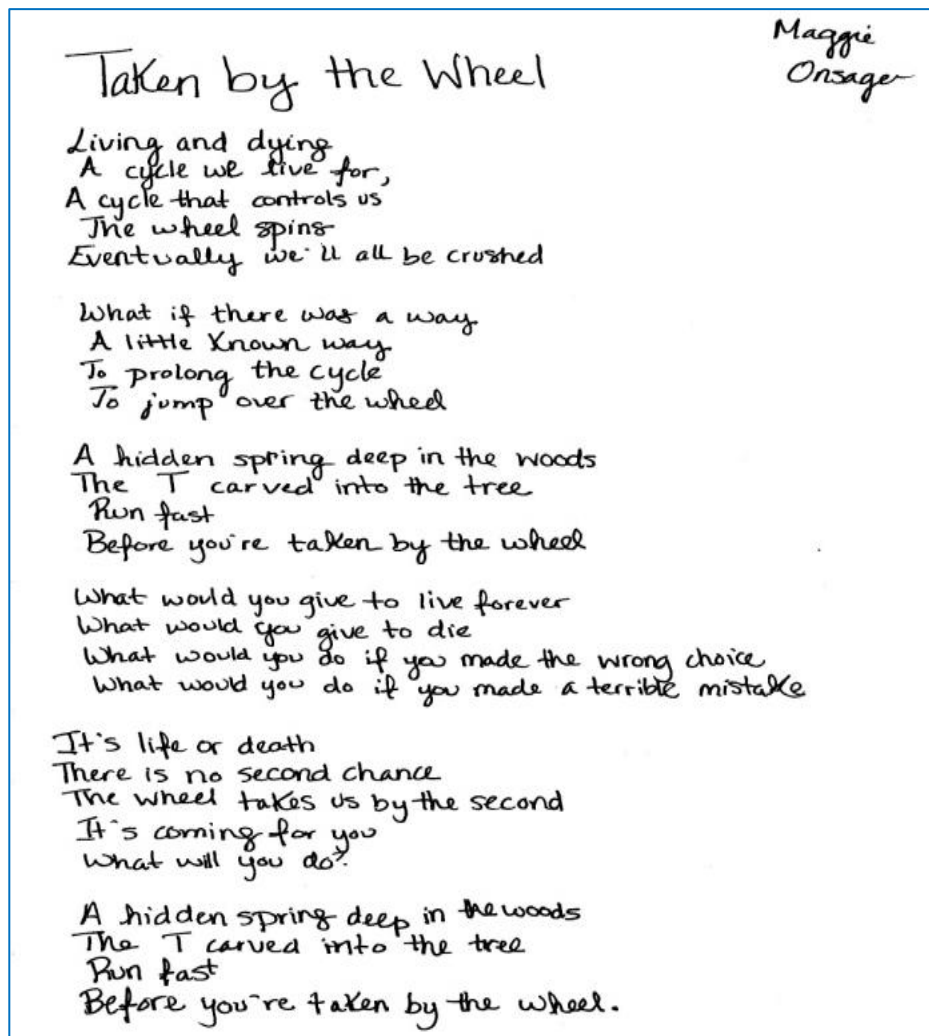
<sup>1</sup> "TUCK Infinity.pdf by Maggie Onsager," n.d.

## Synopsis of Tuck Everlasting

About 200 years ago, in rural New Hampshire, Winnie Foster lived with her mother and grandmother on a small, fenced in farm. Little did she know that another family had existed beside theirs on the other side of the fence. That family was called the Tucks, and – many years before – they had unknowingly taken a drink from an enchanted spring. The water from the spring made them live forever.

There was a mother (Mae) a father (Angus), and two sons (Miles and Jesse). They were frozen in time – they never aged another year so they were the same ages as they were when they first drank from the spring. Winnie came across the Tucks on an unplanned adventure in the woods.

However, there was a man in a yellow suit who knew about the enchanted spring and he tried to get it for himself. This caused a lot of trouble, and in the end the Tucks had to go. Before they left, they offered Winnie water from the enchanted spring. When they returned, the Tucks discovered Winnie's final decision.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> "TUCK Summary.docx by Maggie Onsager," n.d.

<sup>3</sup> "TUCK Poem.pdf by Maggie Onsager," n.d.

## Tuck Timeline

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|---|--|
| 1775: American Revolution begins  | 1877: End of Reconstruction  |
| <b>1777: Jesse born.</b>  | 1879: Invention of the light bulb  |
| 1783: American Revolution ends  | <b>1881: Winnie meets Tucks</b>  |
| 1788: New Hampshire becomes a state   | <b>1887: Winnie turns 17, was supposed to meet Jesse</b>   |
| 1789: Constitution comes into effect, George Washington inaugurated President | 1890: Wounded Knee Massacre  |
| <b>1794: Tuck's drink from the creek and stop aging</b>                       | 1893: Chicago world's fair—referenced in play in when Jesse says, "They built a whole city, you know, all white, spread out" |
| 1796: John Adams elected president  | 1898: Beginning and end of Spanish American War  |
| 1800: Library of congress founded   | 1907: Height of immigration at Ellis Island  |
| 1804: Lewis and Clark begin their expedition                                  | 1914: Start of WWI.  |
| 1823: Monroe Doctrine proclaimed  | 1917: US begins involvement in WWI   |
| 1836: Battle of the Alamo   | 1918: End of WWI.  |
| 1838: Trail of tears  | 1920: Women win the right to vote, prohibition is enacted  |
| 1846: The Mexican American War begins   | 1933: Prohibition ends   |
| 1848: Treaty of Hidalgo ended Mexican American War                            | 1929: Stock market crashes—beginning of the Great Depression.  |
| 1858: Lincoln Douglas Debates were held                                       | 1939: Recovery from Great Depression, beginning of WWII.   |
| 1861: Beginning of Civil War  | 1941: Pearl Harbor and beginning of US involvement in WWII.  |
| 1865: End of Civil War, Lincoln assassinated                                  | 1945: End of WWII.   |
| 1867: African American men win the right to vote                              | 1947: Start of the Cold War  |
| <b>1870: Winnie Born</b>  |  |
| 1876: Telephone invented  |  |

## Facts About New Hampshire

- New Hampshire is situated the most northern of the thirteen original states and lies between latitude 42-40 and 45-18 north and longitude 70-37 west. It is about 180 miles long and 50 miles wide, although the extreme width is 93 miles.
- New Hampshire is bounded on the north by Quebec province in Canada, on the east by Maine and the Atlantic ocean, on the south by Massachusetts, and on the west by Vermont. The Connecticut River is the western boundary.
- Geographies sometimes speak of the state as the "Mother of Rivers." Five of the great streams of New England originate in its granite hills. New Hampshire has 1300 lakes or ponds and 40,000 miles of rivers and streams which provide year round fishing and recreation in scenic surroundings, as well as power for the State's many industries.

- Connecticut River
  - Contoocook River
  - The Pemigewasset River
  - Winnepesaukee River
  - Merrimack River, which at one time turned more spindles than any other river in the world.
- New Hampshire is commonly known as the Granite State
  - One of the original 13 colonies
  - First colony to vote for independence at the Continental Congress
  - Known for its Alpine skiing
  - The Appalachian Trail runs through New Hampshire
  - The famous rock formation “The Old Man of the Mountain”, a rock profile of a man’s face, collapsed in 2003 after efforts to preserve it failed.
  - Mount Washington is the highest peak in the Northeastern United States at 6,288 ft.
  - Site of the first presidential primary during election season.
  - Known for maple syrup and the beautiful leaves of fall.

### **Art And Culture In The 1880s:**

#### **Music**

Goodbye, Tosti and Whyte Melville: (later 1904 recording found here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhxhMN0H0FE>)

The Torpedo and the whale—sheet music below

<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/sheetmusic/id/32126>

Wait till the Clouds Roll By, 2006 recording here (begins at 2:13):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl\\_nPjsXkSQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl_nPjsXkSQ)

#### **Art**

Barbizon period—pastoral landscapes that started to become popular in the 1880s but reached the height of their popularity in the 1890s.

- “Pasture by a Pond” William Morris Hunt, 1875
- “Niagara Falls” William Morris Hunt, 1878

Winslow Homer and Realism

American Impressionism (began in 1880s, though didn’t reach widespread popularity until the 90s)—  
Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, John Singer Sargent

#### **Literature**

*The Portrait of a Lady*

*The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*

*Uncle Remus*

## Toads & Frogs in New Hampshire



### **Bullfrog**

Description: The largest frog in North America at 3.5-6 inches. Color is generally green but may range from brownish to bluish to yellowish. The belly is whitish and may have gray or yellowish molting. They have a large circular disc behind the eye but lack ridges on the back (Green frogs have ridges).

Habitat- Found near larger bodies of water such as the shorelines of lakes, ponds, bogs, and slow-moving rivers. Requires emergent vegetation for cover. Often seen at water's edge sitting on

partially submerged logs.<sup>4</sup>



### **American Toad**

Description- A small 2-3.5 inch toad that may appear brown, olive, reddish, or gray. Have 1-2 large warts in each dark spot on the body. Chest usually spotted with dark pigment; enlarged warts on tibia; parotid gland either separated from ridge behind eye or connected with it by a spur.

Habitat- Forested and open areas, uplands, wetlands, and suburban backyards.<sup>5</sup>

## The Ash Tree, Where the Tuck's Story Begins & Fresh Water Springs



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The **ash tree** is a handsome, native, deciduous tree. There are over 60 ash tree species— the white ash being the largest of the family. The ash tree is a strong, medium to very large tree, depending on type, and

<sup>4</sup> "Bull Frog," accessed January 19, 2015,

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/frogs/frog\\_bullfrog.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/frogs/frog_bullfrog.htm).

<sup>5</sup> "American Toad," accessed January 19, 2015,

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/frogs/frog\\_americanotad.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/frogs/frog_americanotad.htm).

<sup>6</sup> Photograph by Chris Howes/Alamy, "Deadly Fungus Prompts Ban on Ash Tree Imports | Environment | The Guardian," accessed January 19, 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/oct/04/deadly-fungus-ash-tree-imports>.

<sup>7</sup> "TUCK Tree-Page-001.jpg by Maggie Onsager," n.d.



a relative of the olive tree. Ash trees have an opposite branching structure, with multiple leaflets. Depending on species, ash tree leaves are green, turning yellow or purple-burgundy in the fall. Spring flowers are inconspicuous, but the fruit that follows is more noticeable, hanging in clusters of winged seeds which turn light brown and linger on the tree until early winter. The ash tree has a lovely rounded crown and gray diamond-shaped furrowed trunk when mature. An interesting fact about the ash tree is its characteristic agile wood is used to make baseball bats.

**How to Grow:** Most ash tree varieties grow best in moist, rich soil; require full sun and plenty of space.

**Size of Tree:** 50 to 80 feet high / 50 to 90 foot spread.<sup>8</sup>



### **Fresh Water Springs**

A spring is typically where a water source has bubbled up due to water quantity or underground pressure. Spring water may gush from its source, or seep, depending on the conditions and amount of water hidden at its source.

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## **Tuck Everlasting Glossary**

**Bacchanalia:** The Bacchanalia were Roman festivals of Bacchus, the Greco-Roman god of wine, freedom, intoxication and ecstasy... Like all [mystery cults](#), the Bacchanalia were held in strict privacy, and initiates were bound to secrecy; what little is known of the cult and its rites derives from Greek and Roman literature, plays, statuary and paintings.

**Chicago World Fair:** 1893, to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the New World. The play mentions "They built a whole city, you know, all white, spread out," which refers to White City, what they called the architecture constructed for the World Fair in Chicago. They used white stucco on the outside of the classically inspired buildings, which stuck out as incredibly bright in comparison with all the tenement buildings around them

**Dray horse:** A horse adapted for drawing heavy loads; also used for plowing, hauling, and other heavy labor. It's essentially a work horse.

**Gatka:** A traditional South Asian form of combat training where wooden sticks are used to simulate swords in sparring matches.

**Habeas Corpus:** A writ, also known as the great writ that is a summons that brings a prisoner and a custodian before a court to determine whether the custodian has lawful authority to detain a prisoner.

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<sup>8</sup> Photograph by Chris Howes/Alamy, "Deadly Fungus Prompts Ban on Ash Tree Imports | Environment | The Guardian."

<sup>9</sup> "Water Coming From Tree : Pics," accessed January 19, 2015, [http://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/2ihne9/water\\_coming\\_from\\_tree/](http://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/2ihne9/water_coming_from_tree/).

**High Buttoned Shoes:** A Victorian fashion in the mid to late 1800s--Boots that are made out of a combination of leather and fabric with a long row of buttons going up the ankle.

[http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion\\_costume\\_culture/European-Culture-19th-Century/Buttoned-Shoes.html](http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture/European-Culture-19th-Century/Buttoned-Shoes.html)

**Jujitsu:** Japanese martial art and method of close combat for defeating an armed and armored opponent in which one uses a short weapon or no weapon at all. It was developed originally by the samurai of feudal Japan.

**Midas Touch:** Reference from Greek mythology of King Midas, who had the ability to turn everything he touched with his hand to gold.

**Music Boxes:** developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and interestingly were originally powered by clockwork and were made by watchmakers. You have to turn them with a key the same way you do to an old clock.

[http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion\\_costume\\_culture/European-Culture-19th-Century/Buttoned-Shoes.html](http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/fashion_costume_culture/European-Culture-19th-Century/Buttoned-Shoes.html)

**Silo:** A structure frequently used on farms for storing materials in bulk. In agriculture especially, they're used to store grain or a type of fermented seed known as silage.

**Termagant:** An imaginary deity of violet or turbulent behavior who frequently appeared in morality plays. The word is also used in reference to an overbearing woman.

**Ursa Major:** Latin for "larger bear"; a constellation best seen in the month of April that is dominated by an asterism known as the Big Dipper in the United States and the Plough in the United Kingdom. (An asterism is a pattern of stars recognized in the sky; an asterism is sometimes a complete constellation, but in the case of Ursa Major, it is only part of the complete constellation.)

**Yokels:** An uneducated and unsophisticated person from the countryside; synonym of words such as "bumpkin", "hayseed", and "redneck".

**You can lead a horse to water...** but you can't make him drink

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### The Creative Team



**Casey Nicholaw's** (Director/Choreographer) creative credits include *Aladdin*, recently opened on Broadway. 2014 Olivier winner for *The Book of Mormon* as choreographer. 2011 Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards winner for *The Book of Mormon* as co-director with Trey Parker (also nominated for Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards as choreographer), currently running on Broadway. Other Broadway credits as Director/Choreographer: *ELF: The Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (2006 Tony, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle nominations); *Monty Python's Spamalot* directed by Mike Nichols (2005 Tony, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Choreography). Television: A 2013 episode of NBC's "Smash."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> "Casey Nicholaw | Alliance Theatre," accessed January 17, 2015, <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/member/casey-nicholaw>.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



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**Claudia Shear's** (Book) creative credits include on Broadway: *The Smell of the Kill* (dir. Chris Ashley, Drama League Award), *Dirty Blonde* (dir. James Lapine, Tony and Drama Desk Nominations for Best Play and Best Actress, Drama League Award, Theatre World Award). London/West End: *Dirty Blonde*, *Chicago*. Off-West End: "Who's the Daddy". Off-Broadway: *Blown Sideways Through Life* (dir. Chris Ashley, Obie Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Dirty Blonde*, New York Theatre Workshop, *Restoration*, New York Theatre Workshop. Regional: *The Smell of the Kill* (Berkshire Theatre Festival), *Dirty Blonde* (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes Award Nominations for Best Play and Best Actress), West Yorkshire

Playhouse, *Dirty Blonde*, *End of the Day* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Blown Sideways Through Life* (Coronet Theatre), *Restoration*, LaJolla Playhouse. Television: *Earthly Possessions* (dir. James Lapine), *Blown Sideways Through Life* (dir. Chris Ashley) (winner Monteux Rose d'Or) , *Friends*. Film: *Living Out Loud*, *It Could Happen To You*, *The Opportunists*. Claudia writes for various publications, including *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *Vogue* and *Travel & Leisure*. She is a member of the Sundance Screenwriters Lab, NYTW's Usual Suspects and The Dramatists Guild.<sup>13</sup>



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**Chris Miller's** (Music) creative credits include *The Burnt Part Boys* (Playwrights Horizons/Vineyard Theatre, Lucille Lortel Nominee Best Musical, Barrington Stage Co.); *Fugitive Songs* (Drama Desk Award Nominee Outstanding Revue); *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (Barrington Stage Co). *The Whipping Man* (Actor's Theater of Louisville); *Anna Christie* (Old Globe); Co-composer with Michel Friedman, *Angels in America* (Signature Theatre, NY; Michael Greif, Director). Various songs for *Sesame Street*, *Elmo's World*, and *The Electric Company*. Upcoming with lyricist Nathan Tysen: commissions from Lincoln Center Theatre and

Playwrights Horizons. In addition, *Ravello* (Signature Theatre (VA) American Musical Voices Project), two other stage musicals & a song cycle for soprano Rebecca Luker. Cast albums of *The Burnt Part Boys* and *Fugitive Songs* available at iTunes and Amazon. Winner of Richard Rodgers, Jonathan Larson, Kitty Carlisle Hart & Fred Ebb Awards. Proud graduate of Elon University and NYU.<sup>15</sup>



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**Nathan Tysen** (Lyrics) creative credits include *The Burnt Part Boys* (Playwrights Horizons/Vineyard Theatre, Lucille Lortel Nominee Best Musical, Barrington Stage Co.); *Fugitive Songs* (Drama Desk Award Nominee Outstanding Revue); *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (Barrington Stage Co). *The Whipping Man* (Actor's Theater of Louisville); *Anna Christie* (Old Globe); Co-composer with Michel Friedman, *Angels in America* (Signature Theatre, NY; Michael Greif,

<sup>12</sup> "Claudia Shear - Biography - IMDb," accessed January 18, 2015, <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0790396/bio>.

<sup>13</sup> "Claudia Shear | Alliance Theatre," accessed January 18, 2015, <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/member/claudia-shear>.

<sup>14</sup> "Chris Miller | Samuel French," accessed January 16, 2015, <http://www.samuel french.com/author/116518/chris-miller>.

<sup>15</sup> "Chris Miller | Alliance Theatre," accessed January 19, 2015, <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/member/chris-miller>.

<sup>16</sup> "Nathan Tysen Pictures, Photos & Images - ZimBio," accessed January 16, 2015, <http://www.zimbio.com/Nathan+Tysen/pictures/pro>.



Director). Various songs for *Sesame Street*, *Elmo's World*, and *The Electric Company*. Upcoming with lyricist Nathan Tysen: commissions from Lincoln Center Theatre and Playwrights Horizons. In addition, *Ravello* (Signature Theatre (VA) American Musical Voices Project), two other stage musicals & a song cycle for soprano Rebecca Luker. Cast albums of *The Burnt Part Boys* and *Fugitive Songs* available at iTunes and Amazon. Winner of Richard Rodgers, Jonathan Larson, Kitty Carlisle Hart & Fred Ebb Awards. Proud graduate of Elon University and NYU. For my Mother, family and Buryl Red.<sup>17</sup>

### **The Actors & Their Characters**

Can be found at <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/production/tuck-everlasting>

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### **Creative Writing Prompts**

#### **Before the Play:**

- If you have read the book or seen the movie, what is your strongest memory of it?
- If you have not and after reading this Study Guide, what do you think the play is about?
- Do you believe in magic? Why or why not?
- List three things all families should do or should have, and explain why.

#### **After the Play:**

- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- Do you think Winnie made the right decision?
- Would you make the same decision?
- If there's anything you could change about the storyline, what would it be?
- How did the music affect the story, if at all?
- Would you drink from the spring if given the chance? Why or why not?

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<sup>17</sup> "Nathan Tysen | Alliance Theatre," accessed January 20, 2015, <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/member/nathan-tysen>.